

Sizewell B power station

Monthly Newsletter Issue 570

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Introduction

We are keen to hear the views of our local communities. We recognise that good communication is a two-way process and we welcome your feedback and comments. These reports are available to all members of the public on www.edfenergy.com.

Whilst we will do our best to always use plain English, talking about our business sometimes involves specific terminology, and you will find a glossary of any terms used at the end of each monthly report.

Safety

During the period of the report there have been:

- No Lost Time Injuries (LTI)
- No environmental incidents
- No nuclear reportable incidents

Station output

The station has operated at around full power during this period.

Please click on the link below that provides a daily update of the status of our eight nuclear power stations. The link will show which nuclear reactors are in service and what they were generating at the time the information was updated. You can also see which reactors are out of service, what the reasons are and when we expect them to return to service. In addition, we have included the expected timing of the next statutory outage of each nuclear reactor.

<http://www.edfenergy.com/energy/power-station/daily-statuses>

Company news

EDF Energy Renewables opens M1 Wind farm

EDF Energy Renewables has officially opened its M1 wind farm near Quinton, Northampton.

The nine turbine site, located off the M1, six miles from Northampton, is capable of delivering over 7 megawatts (MW) of low carbon electricity, enough to meet the average annual needs of approximately 3,800 homes*



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Having been granted planning permission in May 2013, construction at the site started in November 2013. Commissioning of the turbines was completed early the following summer before the wind farm going fully operational in June 2014.

Prior to the project being given the green light, the company carried out wide ranging environmental studies and an extensive consultation with local people and special interest groups. The feedback from local people helped to inform the resulting planning application.

When the company came to build the wind farm, of the 11 contracts relating to construction, several were awarded to local companies. The work, involving firms from Northampton and the surrounding area included concrete and aggregate supply, core drilling, survey and surfacing activities, fencing and road marking.

The total value of the contracts awarded to locally is estimated to be over £0.5million.

Now that the site is up and running, EDF Energy Renewables aims to keep the local community involved and is keen that those living near the site benefit from the investment.

This is why EDF Energy Renewables set up a local community fund with a value of £27,000 a year split between five local parish councils.

In the fund's first year, applications have included a marquee for village events, installing and updating children's play equipment and widening a pedestrian footpath used by local children on their way to school.

New nuclear research on the Sizewell coast

A team of marine engineers working on the Sizewell C project will gather fresh data from the seabed via a series of geophysical surveys, tests and shallow boreholes along the Sizewell shoreline and out to sea.

As part of the work sediment cores will be removed from the sea-bed for laboratory analysis.

This work will provide essential geotechnical information for ongoing design studies for the cooling water infrastructure and the Marine Offloading Facility (MOLF) needed for the proposed new power station.

The work will be carried out from boats in front of the Sizewell site.

EDF Energy's response to Ofgem investigation into complaint handling

EDF Energy has agreed to pay £3m to benefit vulnerable customers following an Ofgem investigation into the company's complaint handling during the final stages of introducing a new customer service IT system in 2011.

Despite careful planning and investment in resources to manage the transition of the new system over an 18 month period, some EDF Energy customers experienced long call waiting times in the latter part of 2011.

As soon as the problems emerged, following a number of unforeseen technical system problems, EDF Energy suspended the transfer of customer accounts into the new system. Actions were taken to resolve these technical problems and hundreds of additional staff were recruited to restore service levels.

Update on coastal flooding defence improvements at Dungeness B

Dungeness B power station is undertaking a number of improvements to its coastal flooding defences, investing around £5 million so far.

The works began in 2013 and are to upgrade the existing flooding defences to cover more extreme events that are statistically very unlikely to occur in the U.K., ones that might happen only one in every 10,000 years.

The station has just put in a planning application for the final phase of the project; a rock armour wall behind the shingle bank which we hope to be completed by the end of 2014.

Sizewell B and the Community

Science in the Summer Holidays at Sizewell B

School was out for the summer during July and August and the bookings at the Sizewell B visitor centre were on the rise with parents looking for educational activities for the kids.

The visitor centre at the power station has recorded an increase in the number of family trips to the site since schools broke up with over 850 visitors attending the centre over the summer break as parents look for educational activities in the last few weeks of the school holidays.

Parents looking for something to do with the children, come rain or shine, have poured through the visitor centre doors looking for activities that stimulate young active brains.

Annabel Bell and her 11 year old son Joe visited the power station whilst on holiday in Walberswick this week. Joe is studying science at school and wanted to see a power station for his energy studies.

Joe was joined by his young brother, Ned and sister Kitty on a tour of the visitor centre after Joe completed his tour of the power station. The family finished the visit with their own special science pack so they can take part in EDF Energy's new nationwide mass participation citizen science experiment - The Big Bumblebee Discovery. The initiative is designed to address real scientific questions and inspire a new generation of science enthusiasts.



Joe shows his younger brother Ned some of the activities at the Sizewell B visitor centre

The Big Bumblebee Discovery, which EDF Energy is running in partnership with the British Science Association, will see students across the country act as real-life scientific researchers.

The experiment utilises a citizen science approach – the method of using a large number of public researchers, in this case school children, to each collect a sample of data. The hope is that by encouraging large number of individuals to pool their knowledge and efforts, data can be collected quickly and efficiently to help answer scientific questions.

Results will be used by researchers from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to map bumblebee numbers across Britain and what impact changing population numbers have on crop pollination.

Numbers visiting Sizewell B since the new visitor centre launched in December 2012 broke the 5,000 mark last month with a tour by a group of up and coming nuclear leaders from across the globe the World Nuclear University.

The visitor centre has recently recruited three new guides to deal with the increase in bookings for tours of the station. There is now a team of ten guides based at the Sizewell B visitor centre ready to meet schools and the general public keen to know more about how Sizewell B safely generates enough low carbon generation for over 2million homes.

What is it like to be on the EDF Energy apprentice scheme?

Apprentices from around the country tell us what it's like to work in a nuclear power station on the EDF Energy apprentice scheme.

Whilst university may be the first choice for some, more and more A-level students are looking at apprentice schemes as another route.

Rochelle Grimmer, 21, is a chemistry technician at Sizewell B power station in Suffolk

Rochelle Grimmer has recently completed a two year programme with a focus on chemistry at EDF Energy and has achieved an HNC in Chemistry at Greenwich University.

"My desire to work at EDF Energy began with a work experience placement at Sizewell B when I was 13 and studying at Kirkley High School in Lowestoft." Rochelle said.

"I worked in a number of different departments, but learning about chemistry was my favourite, so when I passed my A levels, I applied and was successful in securing a Chemistry trainee position in September 2011.

"I was given on the job training in chemistry but also studied for my HNC."

Having successfully qualified, Rochelle is now employed as a chemistry technician, where her focus is to provide environmental support.

"The best thing about the apprentice programme is it has provided me with the opportunity for hands on experience, that has led to me securing full time employment."



Rochelle was featured in an episode of the BBC flagship rural affairs programme Countryfile. Presenter Julia Bradbury talked with Rochelle about her role at the power station.

Rochelle was featured taking a sample of sea water at the outfall pipe, the last environmental monitoring point before the water goes back out to sea. The sea water was tested for chlorine in one of the chemistry labs on site to show the safety of the water.

Rochelle with Julia Bradbury (right) during the filming of Countryfile.

Next local community meeting

The next Sizewell Stakeholder Group meeting will take place on Thursday 4 December 2014 at 10:00 hrs at Leiston Film Theatre. Any member of the public is welcome to attend.

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Term	Definition
Nuclear reportable event or incident	Nuclear reportable events are events reported to the Office for Nuclear Regulation in compliance with EDF Energy's nuclear site licences.
Lost time injury	Lost Time Injury is an absence of one day or more resulting from an injury incurred during an accident - generally in UK industry a less stringent three day or more criteria is used.
Environmental event or incident	Environmental events arise from wastes or discharges above permitted levels or breaches of permitted conditions.
Outage	A period during which a reactor is shut down. The periodic shutdown of a reactor including for maintenance, inspection and testing or, in some cases for refuelling is known as a planned outage. In the UK, some planned outages are known as statutory outages and are required by the conditions attached to the nuclear site licence needed to operate the station. Unscheduled shutdown of a reactor for a period is known as an unplanned outage.
Unit	A unit refers to one of the reactors at the power station and its generating turbine